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Cambodia: Cambodia apparently has granted full diplomatic recognition to North Vietnam.

According to Phnom Penh press reports, Chief of State Sihanouk stated yesterday that North Vietnam's diplomatic mission had been upgraded to an embassy as a result of Hanoi's statement on 8 June recognizing Cambodia's territorial integrity within its "present borders." One of Sihanouk's major objectives in recent years has been to obtain such recognition. Sihanouk also said that the Viet Cong's Liberation Front soon would be accorded "diplomatic status" in Phnom Penh because it had issued a similar statement on 31 May. Moscow and Peking also have fallen into line during the past few days.

The Vietnamese statements were apparently in response to Sihanouk's call last month for international recognition of Cambodia's borders. There is no indication that the Communists have made any concessions on the actual delimitation of Cambodia's "present borders," however. Last fall the Vietnamese refused to sign an agreement defining the border, claiming they were unwilling to delimit the border until the end of the Vietnam war and were unable to meet other Cambodian demands.

The present broad statements of recognition, however, will help the Communists offset the effects of Sihanouk's current campaign against the Cambodian left, which has been accompanied by frequent allusions to the malevolent influence of the "Viet Minh." They will also serve to reinforce Sihanouk's belief that Cambodia has more to gain in working with the Communists than with an unresponsive South Vietnam.

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India: The government is facing increasing domestic criticism as a result of its strong pro-Arab stance during the present Middle East crisis.

Criticism has come from all opposition parties except the Communists and from nearly all nonfellow-traveling newspapers. Even within the ruling Congress Party, there appears to be widespread, but thus far muted, opposition to the government's action.

New Delhi apparently believes that anything short of vigorous support for the Arabs would adversely affect India's position in the UN, where the Indians have been largely successful in minimizing Arab support for Pakistan in the Kashmir dispute. In addition, there exists between the governments of India and the UAR a nostalgic bond created by Nasir and Mrs. Gandhi's father when the two men, along with Yugoslavia's Tito, attempted to create a bloc of nonaligned states in the 1950s. Indian trade with the Arab world and the presence in India of 60 million Muslims also are significant factors in the Gandhi government's attitudes.

Domestic criticism of the government may grow, particularly in the wake of Arab military defeats. Although Mrs. Gandhi seems unlikely to be forced out of office over the issue, critics within the Congress Party probably will add her inept handling of the Arab-Israeli crisis to the many other "failures" for which they hold her accountable.

The Middle East crisis could have other effects on the Indian domestic scene. Ships transporting food to India via the Suez Canal may have to be rerouted around Africa, adding at least a week in travel time. Delays in food-grain arrivals in the near future would come at a critical time as a result of continuing near-starvation conditions in some areas.

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Britain: [The official debate on the status of Britain's overseas military establishment continues. According to a Foreign Office official, the UK has taken a decision, apparently unrelated to the current Middle East crisis, to retain its base at Benghazi, Libya. The base previously was scheduled to be closed by the end of this year. A cabinet decision on whether to withdraw completely from the Asian mainland by 1975 is still expected before 15 July.]

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Iceland: Prime Minister Benediktsson's coalition of the Independence (conservative) and the Social Democratic parties managed to hold a narrow parliamentary majority as a result of the 11 June general election. This will ensure continuation of Iceland's pro-Western policies. Continued prosperity and, in particular, a split in the Communist-front Labor Alliance helped produce the result. The questions of NATO membership and the presence of US forces in Iceland apparently had little effect despite opposition efforts to revive these controversial issues.

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South Korea: The government is dealing firmly with student protests against blatant irregularities in the National Assembly elections on 8 June. Because the public appears aware that the ruling party would probably have won an assembly majority even without resort to rigging, no widespread antigovernment movement is likely. If the police overreact against the demonstrators, however, as they have in the past, public sympathy might build up for the students and the situation could rapidly become more serious.

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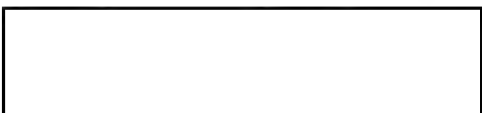
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